If a Sanitary Department had to be maintained for attending to the major sanitary operations such as, drainage, water supply, etc., for which a department was maintained in British India, the four works above detailed would fall under the minor functions of the department. But the maintenance of an elaborate Sanitary Department for the discharge of those minor functions alone, which were formerly discharged with equal efficiency by other State agencies, was an unnecessary expenditure of public funds. The people were painfully convinced that the advantage derived from the department was nothing, when compared to the price paid for it. The Member therefore requested that the suggestions he had advanced might receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

91. Unsatisfactory condition of the present administration of the Sanitary Departm[illegible]

Mr. A. K. Govindan Channar (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) [illegible] the opinions of the Members, who had already spoken about the Sanitary Dep[illegible] in particular and of those who referred to the department in connection with the retrenchment of State expenditure, evidenced the popular sentiment in respect of the uselessness of the department. Sanitation was a subject of vital importance to the people, but he complained that the present Sanitary Department did not pay that attention to it which it deserved. The number of deaths generally, and deaths from small-pox and fevers in particular, were on the increase. If deaths from cholera showed a small decrease, the Member argued that it was an indirect result of the general poverty of the masses. He proposed that the all-important question of sanitation might be entrusted to taluk boards conducted under the guidance and expert advice of the Sanitary Commissioner, under a system of liberal grants from the Goverment. The Vaccine Depot should be taken directly under the control of Government and lymph supplied to all the taluk boards. If such proposal was not considered feasible, he agreed with the other Members in t[illegible] that the department might be altogether abolished and its work di[illegible]ankin[illegible] other departments as suggested by them. [illegible]istributed among[illegible]

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

92. Present state of public health, medical aid and sanitation in the State and how to improve the same.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) said that the number of cases vaccinated during 1090 had fallen from that during the previous year and the average number of cases per vaccinator per month was only 165 during 1090 while the minimum fixed by the Government was 175.

Dewan.—The minimum has been reduced to 150 cases per vaccinator.

The Member continued and said that, since vaccination was compulsory for admission to schools, the Central Jail and the Sirkar service, the number of cases returned was mainly under those heads and the vaccinations performed on others were very few. Due attention was not being paid by the department to sanitation in general.

He next pointed out that only a small percentage of the delivery cases was being attended to by the midwives of the Medical Department and that was why infantile deaths registered were on the increase. He proposed that more midwives should be entertained and that instruction in midwifery, nursing of children etc., should be imparted in the higher classes of elementary and secondary schools for girls. The curricula of studies for girls should be different from that for boys and suitable changes should therefore be introduced. He next pointed out that the average cost per patient in the Medical Department was about 16 chs., while the average cost per patient on account of medicine alone was only 14 cash, and that the supply of medicines to the hospitals was very poor. The stock of medicines ran out months before the close of the year and particular medicines much earlier. He suggested the desirability of getting indents for the medicines required from each hospital, as different medicines could then be supplied in different quantities to different hospit[illegible]

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taking into consideration the needs of the locality. Medical aid should be free to the poor, but the wealthy should be made to pay for medicines given to them. All kinds of patients were now kept in the same room in the hospitals. The practice should as far as possible be discontinued, as otherwise each patient would contract his neighbour's infection. Medicines supplied to hospitals were being used for private practice by some medical officers. It was necessary to rigorously stop the practice. The tours of the Darbar Physician should be notified beforehand for the information of the public, so that people might see him and represent their grievances in respect of the medical aid at any place. As the cost to the Government on a patient was less in the grant-in-aid hospitals, he proposed that the grant-in-aid system should be liberally extended.

Coming to the Ayurvedic Department, he proposed that a model farm having [illegible] available species of medicinal plants should be opened. Those who were [illegible]sful in the examinations of the Ayurveda Patasala had now no practical [illegible]ledge of those plants, and it was left to the seller of the herbs to identify each of [illegible]. The seller could substitute one herb for another and very few Vaidyans would [illegible]ect the mistake. Practice in the system of treatment was more essential than [illegible] passing of an examination. It was therefore desirable that those who passed the [illegible]aminations should be forced to undergo a practical course of training under a re[illegible]gnised practitioner, before they were given grant-in-aid.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Town Improvement Committees.

93. Desirability of appointing elected non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents for all Town Improvement Committees and of enlarging their powers.

Mr. R. Easwara Aiyar, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said [illegible]hat the Government had recognised that the administration of the town of Alleppey [illegible]as highly satisfactory under its non-official President. It was therefore desirable to [illegible]xtend the experiment to the other Committees as well. If non-official Presidents [illegible]nd Vice-Presidents were appointed for the Committees, much better work could be [illegible]one by them. The official Presidents, on account of their multifarious other duties, [illegible]ound little time to spend on the administration of the town. Even with their utmost [illegible]esire in that direction, they were unable to attend all the meetings of the Committee. Further, being officers of the State, they were over-scrupulous in the expenditure of [illegible]he Committee's funds in the interests of the town, so as to avoid the chance of the [illegible]ommittee's requisitioning Government help when their balance was spent out. For those and various other grounds, it was desirable to appoint non-official Presidents. [illegible]He was confident, at least in the case of the major towns, that representatives of the [illegible]eople, who would be willing to serve the people by undertaking the task, were available. He therefore pressed the question for the early attention of the Government.

He next dealt with the enhancement of the financial powers of the Committees. [illegible]hey should have more control over their funds.

Dewan.—I may tell you that a Bill has been drafted for amending and [illegible]epealing the existing Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, under which [illegible]reater financial and other control would be bestowed on the Committees. The Bill [illegible]now under the consideration of the Government and it is a very large advance on the [illegible]xisting legislation.

The Member said that if the Government were of opinion that the powers of the [illegible]mmittees should be enhanced, he had nothing more to add. He however suggested [illegible]t powers should be given to the Committees for raising loans whenever and wherever [illegible]cessary. So far as the Quilon Committee was concerned, there was a proposal to [illegible]ve the town lit with electricity. A large outlay would be necessary for the [illegible]purpose. The townsfolk were willing to advance money on debenture bonds issued [illegible]on the security of the Committee's funds. The town could be improved if such [illegible]powers were given to the Committee.

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